Roseann Casey grew up a few blocks from Regis University. She learned to swim in its pool as a child and her grandmother was a secretary to the dean for many years. Yet, when it came time for college, Roseann was hoping to travel a bit farther afield. In fact, she was all but certain she would go to school out of state. When Regis offered her a scholarship to play volleyball, however, she couldn’t possibly turn it down. She took the scholarship, but also made herself a promise. Someday she would travel. Someday she would see the world. She has more than made good on that promise.

Her desire to see the world grew even stronger at Regis. She was a business major, but felt drawn to political science (her minor) and international studies classes, the most memorable of which were those taught by Dr. Terry Schmidt. Her first opportunity to travel came between her junior and senior years at Regis, when she studied abroad in Austria. It took some finagling, but she was able to get permission to miss a part of volleyball training camp in order to participate in the program. That experience would prove to be the first of many endeavors in the international arena.

Roseann would eventually spend two years with the Peace Corps in Russia, an experience that would form the foundation of her thesis for the Master of Nonprofit Management (MNM) degree she obtained from Regis in 1997. Roseann was the first person in the MNM program to focus on international nonprofit development.

After her stint in Russia, Roseann lived in Bosnia for three years, working with the International Rescue Committee. There, she assisted with the post-war rebuilding efforts so that refugees could return to their homes. When she came back to the U.S., she lived in New York where she continued to work in the nonprofit sector, before getting a second master’s degree, this time in public administration from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. Following this academic break, Roseann focused on environmental and social issues in the private sector, working in New York and Boston.

Most recently, Roseann has been serving with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). She is stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan, and works within the Office of Infrastructure, Engineering and Energy. She was recently promoted to division chief of the Energy and Water Division. Her job is essentially to figure out which infrastructure programs are most pressing, to navigate the complex process of getting them done, which includes working closely with the Afghan government, the U.S. Military, as well as international coalition partners and implementing agencies, to ensure that the selected projects are sustainable for the long term.

The U.S. embassy in Afghanistan is a long way from the Lowell campus, but Roseann’s Regis education travels with her. She admires how Jesuit education pushes students to think through difficult issues and to consider how their choices impact the world around them. “For me Jesuit education is about critical thinking, simplicity, and the question of how you choose to live your life,” she says.

Roseann has chosen to live well. She serves humbly in challenging circumstances, helping to rebuild communities and lives. In a way, you could say she has doubled down on that long-ago promise. Not only has she seen the world, but she is helping to make it a better place.